

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 SSM-03 DHA-02 /082 W
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R 161447Z AUG 77
FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2823
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 4742

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, JO, US, IS
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN REACTION TO ISRAELI ANNOUNCEMENT OF EXTENSION
OF FULL SERVICES TO OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

1. SUMMARY: GOJ DENOUNCES ISRAELI MOVE ON WEST BANK.
ANALYTICAL JORDANIANS SEE MOVE ITSELF AS FURTHER EVIDENCE
OF ISRAELI INTENTION TO HOLD ON TO WEST BANK; TIMING
IS VIEWED AS INTENTIONAL EFFORT AT DISRUPTING USG PEACE
EFFORTS, AND TO THAT EXTENT, DIRECT AFRONT TO U.S.,
SIMILAR IN THEIR VIEW TO LEGALIZATION ANNOUNCEMENT AFTER
BEGIN VISIT. THEIR MAIN INTEREST NOW IS IN HOW USG WILL
REACT TO WHAT THEY SEE AS ANOTHER CLEAR SIGN OF ISRAELI
INTRANSIGENCE IN WEST BANK ISSUE. END SUMMARY

2. JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN ATTACKED IN
STATEMENT ISRAELI MOVE TO GIVE WEST BANK AND GAZA SAME
SERVICES AS ISRAELIS, SAYING IT CREATES NEW REALITY
IN OCCUPIED TERRITORY IN VIOLATION OF INTERNATIONAL
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LAW. FURTHERMORE, SPOKESMAN SAID, THIS ACTION
CONSTITUTES GREAT DAMAGE TO CURRENT PEACE-SEEKING
EFFORTS, PARTICULARLY AS IT COMES ONLY THREEE DAYS
AFTER SECRETARY'S DEPARTURE FROM MID-EAST. LOCAL
PRESS PLAYED GOJ ANNOUNCEMENT PROMINENTLY AND IN
EXTENSIVE FRONT-PAGE COMMENTARY, DENOUNCED WHAT IT
SEES AS NEW EXAMPLE OF ISRAELI DETERMINATION TO

ANNEX WEST BANK. PAPERS ALSO GAVE PROMINENT
PLAY TO REPORT THAT STATE DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN
HAD NO COMMENT ON MOVE. SEVERAL PAPERS SUGGEST
THAT USG SHOULD ISSUE STRONG STATEMENT SIMILAR TO
ONE ISSUED LAST MONTH AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT CONCERNING
LEGALIZATION OF SETTLEMENTS.

3. IN CONVERSATION WITH JORDANIANS, EMBOFFS HAVE
FOUND STRONG IF LOW-KEY REACTION TO MOVE. FOR EXAMPLE,
WELL PLACED OFFICIAL IN PM'S OFFICE WAS FULL OF
PRAISE FOR SINCERITY OF U.S. PEACE EFFORT AS EVIDENCED
BY SECRETARY'S SUBSTANTIVE APPROACH WHEN HERE, BUT HE
QUESTIONED USG ABILITY OVERCOME "ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE."
HE THEN CITED ISRAELI MOVE ON WEST BANK AS EXAMPLE,
SPECIFICALLY QUOTING ISRAELI GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL TO
EFFECT THAT LATEST MOVE DOES NOT RAISE QUESTION OF
ANNEXATION BECAUSE ONE DOES NOT ANNEX WHAT ONE ALREADY
OWNS. NOTING TIMING OF LATEST ACTION, IMMEDIATELY
AFTER VANCE VISIT, HE CONCLUDED CONVERSATION BY
WONDERING HOW USG WILL REACT TO SUCH A CALCULATED
AFFRONT TO ITS PEACE EFFORTS.

4. COMMENT: EXCEPT FOR EXPECTED
STRIDENT PRESS DENUNCIATIONS, JORDANIANS HAVE
TYPICALLY NOT OVERREACTED TO ISRAELI MOVE. IT
IS TO THEM JUST FURTHER REAFFIRMATION OF WHAT THEY
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CONSIDER TO BE BEGIN GOVERNMENT'S INTENTION TO RETAIN
WEST BANK. FOCUS IN GENERAL--AND PRESS
REFLECTS THIS--IS ON HOW USG WILL REACT, AS THEY FEEL
OUR REACTION WILL INDICATE OUR ABILITY TO DEAL
IN LONG HAUL WITH WHAT THEY SEE AS FUNDAMENTAL
ISRAELI INTRANSIGENCE ON WEST BANK ISSUE.
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